

German Pronunciation Notes

Vowels

a = father

ay = gate (only the “a” sound, not the diphthong)*

ae = bright*

ao = cow*

e = fed

ee = feed

i = bit

o = own

oo = room

ö = ought

y = umlaut, form lips in a round “oo” and allow the back of the tongue to be in the high “ee” position

*Where two vowels are indicated, the diphthong is like English, sing on the first vowel for the majority of the syllable.

Final syllables of many words are indicated as “eh.” The actual pronunciation is a schwa sound (“the”). I have found it useful to have singers form the “œ” sound used as a neutral French vowel to keep the sound from dropping to the back of the throat.

Consonants

The ŋ indicates the “ng” sound in “singing.” There is no hard “g” included.

The letter x indicates the hard German glottal “ch.”

The letter ç indicates the softer, higher glottal “ch.”

The letter r is flipped, not trilled.

The letter s is unvoiced.

Die Engel dee ED-el

Sie zee	haben HA-ben	alle A-leh	müde MY-deh	Münde MYN-deh	
und oont	helle HE-leh	Seelen ZAY-len	ohne OH-neh	Saum. zaoom	
Und oont	eine AEE-neh	Sehnsucht ZAYN-zooxt	(wie vee	nach nax	Sünde) ZYN-deh
geht gayt	ihnen I-nen	manchmal MADX-mal	durch doorx	den dayn	Traum. traoom
Fast fast	gleichen GLAEE-çen	sie zee	einander aeen-AN-der	alle; A-leh	

in in	Gottes GÖ-tehs	Gärten GER-ten	schweigen SHVAEE-gehn	sie, zee	
wie wee	viele, FEE-leh	viele FEE-leh	Intervalle in-ter-VA-leh		
in in	seiner ZAEE-ner	Macht maxt	und oont	Melodie. MAY-lo-dee	
Nur noor	wenn ven	sie zee	ihre EE-reh	Flügel FLY-gel	breiten, BRAEE-ten
sind zint	sie zee	die dee	Wecker VE-ker	eines AEE-nehs	Winds: vihnts
als alz	ginge GID-eh	Gott göt	mit mit	seinen ZAEE-nen	weiten VAEE-ten
Bildhauerhänden bilt-HAOO-er-hen-den	durch doorx	die dee	Seiten ZAEE-ten		
im im	dunklen DOOD-klen	Buch boox	des des	Anbeginns. AN-be-gins	